

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The specification has been amended to eliminate some minor obvious errors. No new matter whatsoever has been added.

The claims have been amended to overcome the formal objections.

The claims stand rejected under §102 in view of US 2003/00334454 of Walker.

Applicant, by way of background, would like to point out that the present invention refers to a bus-based system including a bus as a basic data transfer facility, a CPU, a memory block MEM plus a plurality of IP's. These IPs are accessible through the system bus via respective DMA modules.

Walker describes a DMA controller for transferring data from a first to a second location under the control of a processor, the DMA controller comprising at least three ports, each port being configurable to act as an input or output port of the DMA controller and to be coupled to any one of the other port. In use the ports of the DMA controller may be coupled to a processor, processor memory, one or more dedicated modules and one or more

system buses. Due to its configuration the DMA controller can perform a data transfer between two locations without necessarily occupying the system buses. This may occur for example when data is being transferred from processor associated memory to a dedicated module and vice versa (see paragraph [0011] lines 1-3 and lines 6-8).

It is respectfully submitted that the arrangement of the present invention, as a bus-based system, necessarily needs to use the bus for transferring data between different locations.

Furthermore, even when Walker discloses using the system bus for transferring data between a first and a second location, the whole system configuration is different from that disclosed by the present invention. In fact, for data transfer, the present invention makes use of a plurality of DMA modules coupled over the data transfer facility (BUS) in a chain arrangement while Walker makes use of a single DMA controller comprising multiple ports, each port of the DMA being coupled to a different location in the system.

This is an altogether different system. Walker lacks the chain of DMA modules of this invention, instead substituting a single multiport DMA module. The rejection under §102 in view of Walker must fall.

For the reasons advanced above all the claims in the case are in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Request for extension (three months)
Corrected version
Substitute Specification
Replacement drawing (1 sheet)